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STATISTICAL SUMMARY

Bureau of Agricultural Economics, U.S.D.A. Washington, D. C. SS 123

Winter Wheat Prospects Still Uncertain

A large proportion of the winter wheat acreage, February 1, was extremely vulnerable to winter killing. Severe winter weather might come before the young plants are conditioned to hardiness, or before wheat fields are protected by snow cover. The most important wheat areas, on Feb. 1, had no snow cover. Another large portion, especially in the southern Great Plains area, lacked surface and subsoil moisture...Wind damage is also likely in the Great Plains. Some blowing has already occurred. Under such conditions in the past, acreage losses have been heavy...Prospects have improved in the Pacific Northwest and the need for reseeding may fall well below earlier probabilities.

Citrus Prospects

Quantities of both oranges and grapefruit still available for use after February 1 are smaller than a year ago. Prospects declined a little during the past month, as poorer prospects in Florida more than offset improvement in California. Orange and tangerine production this season is indicated at 123.6 million boxes, compared with 122.6 year ago and 106.6 for the 10-year average. Grapefruit estimate is 36.5 million boxes, compared with 40.5 year ago and 51.2 average.

More Fresh Vegetables

Supplies of fresh vegetables this winter are expected to be 7 percent larger than last winter. Prospects held up or improved during January, only sweet corn, cucumbers and tomatoes showing declines. Spring vegetable supplies probably also will be larger by about 7 percent than a year ago.

Record Milk Production

The 8.7 billion pounds of milk produced on farms in January was all-time high for the month. Compares with 8.2 year earlier, 8.3 for the 1942-51 average, and tops the previous high set in 1945 by a little over 2 percent. Population, of course, continues to grow, and production per capita continues relatively low, averaging 1.77 pounds per person, per day in January.

Egg Production Record High in January Tops Year Earlier by 1 Percent

The 5.4 billion eggs laid in January were record production for the month and topped the 1942-51 average by 22 percent. Exceeded year earlier by only 1 percent. Record production in all regions except West North Central and South Central States.

PARITY PRICES FOR FARM PRODUCTS AND ACTUAL PRICES RECEIVED

COMMODITY AND UNIT	ACTUAL PRICE		PARITY PRICE Jan. 15 1953
	Dec. 15 1952	Jan. 15 1953	
Wheat, bu.	dol. 2.12	2.10	2.44
Corn, bu.	dol. 1.50	1.48	1.77
Peanuts, lb.	ct. 11.0	10.9	13.2
Cotton, lb.	ct. 1/ 31.71	1/ 29.79	34.22
Potatoes, bu.	dol. 1.99	2.06	1.66
Hogs, 100 lb.	dol. 16.00	17.80	20.60
Beef cattle, 100 lb.	dol. 19.70	19.70	21.40
Veal calves, 100 lb.	dol. 22.40	23.40	23.80
Lambs, 100 lb.	dol. 19.50	20.30	23.10
Butterfat, lb.	ct. 2/ 64.0	2/ 65.7	75.3
Milk, wholesale, 100 lb.	dol. 2/ 4.67	2/ 3/ 4.62	4.74
Chickens, live, lb.	ct. 2/ 26.4	26.5	31.0
Eggs, doz.	ct. 2/ 39.8	2/ 47.7	47.4

1 / American upland cotton.

2 / Adjusted.

3 / Preliminary.

Fewer Layers Than a Year Ago

All regions had fewer layers than in January last year, except the North Atlantic with 3 percent more and the East North Central with no change. Nation's laying flock averaged 375.9 million layers in January, fewer by 2 percent than a year earlier. Potential layers February 1 totaled 387.6 million--down by 4 percent from a year ago.

Turkey Prices Off 3½ Cents From Year Ago

Turkeys, liveweight, averaged 33.6 cents per pound mid-January, compared with 37.1 cents year earlier. USDA bought over 48 million pounds 1952-crop, frozen ready-to-cook turkeys under the surplus removal program authorized by Congress.

Fewer Chicks To Be Purchased

Farmers generally report plans to decrease their purchases of chicks this year. Exceptions are in the mountain States

Prices Received and Prices Paid by Farmers Index Numbers, 1910-14 = 100

	Jan. 1953	Dec. 1952	Nov. 1952	Jan. 1952	Dec. 1951
Prices received by farmers	267	269	277	300	305
Crops	251	257	257	277	280
Food grains	245	247	248	251	253
Feed grains and hay	214	218	213	234	233
Tobacco	419	428	412	431	440
Cotton	252	268	288	325	339
Fruit	208	206	195	171	177
Truck crops	237	256	238	337	331
Oil-bearing crops	291	300	300	303	309
Livestock and products	281	280	295	320	328
Meat animals	303	291	310	376	379
Dairy products	296	309	318	316	314
Poultry and eggs	218	221	238	200	233
Prices paid by farmers:					
All commodities	267	267	268	275	273
Commodities used in living	268	269	269	271	272
Commodities used in production	265	264	266	278	275
All commodities, interest, taxes, and wage rates	282	280	281	287	284
Parity ratio (prices rec'd to prices paid by farmers)	95	96	99	105	107

where farmers plan an increase of 6 percent and the middle Atlantic and Pacific States where no change is expected. Hatchery output in December was up 8 percent and the January output was up 4 percent from a year earlier.

Relatively Large Stocks of Corn

Stocks of corn in all positions (farms, terminals, CCC, interior mills, elevators and warehouses) Jan. 1 are reported the third largest for the date, exceeded only in 1950 and 1951. The total of 2,576 million bushels is up 9 percent from the 2,357 million a year ago.

Other Grain Stocks, All Positions, Jan. 1 With Comparisons (Thousands of Bushels)

	1953	1952	1951
Oats	864,659	913,217	941,218
Barley	163,685	203,411	244,140
Sorghum Grain	54,188	148,936	213,114
Wheat	1,102,932	852,571	1,002,002
Rye	9,175	15,674	18,424

Livestock-Poultry Inventory Up 1 Percent

Livestock and poultry on farms made a net increase of 1 percent during 1952, the Crop Reporting Board's estimate shows. The increase resulted from a substantial rise in cattle numbers. Numbers of all other species (hogs, sheep, horses, mules and poultry) were down. Net increase in 1951 was 4 percent; 3 percent in 1950, and 1 percent in 1949.

7 Percent More Cattle

The 94 million head of cattle and calves now on farms compares with 88 million year ago, a 7 percent increase. Present number is an all-time record. Year ago was the previous record; 1942-51 average, 80.5 million head.

3 Percent Increase In Milk Cows

Milk cows now numbering 24 million head, showed a 3 percent increase, the first since 1945. Number year ago was 23.4 million; 23.7 million in 1951 and 23.9 million in 1950. Milk heifers 1 to 2 years old and heifer calves for milk—with advances 4 and 6 percent respectively—increased more than milk cows.

9 Million Fewer Hogs

Hog numbers are down 14 percent, about 9 million head. The 54.6 million head compares with 63.6 million year ago and 62.8 million for the 1942-51 average.

Little Change in Sheep Numbers

Stock sheep numbers are down 193 thousand head, a little over 1 percent. The estimate is 27.9 million compared with 28 million head year ago. All sheep totaled 31.6 million head on Jan. 1 compared with 32.1 million year earlier; 10-year average, 41.4 million head.

Horses and Mules Continue Decline

Horses declined 11 percent; mules 8 percent. Continues the many year decline. All horses on farms are estimated at 3.9 million head compared with 4 million year ago and 7.6 million 1942-51 average. Peak inventory of 21.4 million horses was reached in 1915—over 5 times the present number. The 1.8 million mules on farms compares with 1.9 million year ago, 2.1 million two years ago, and 2.9 million average. Number now is only 30 percent of the 5.9 peak in 1925.

Turkey Numbers Down 8 Percent

Turkeys on farms Jan. 1 (excluding turkey fryers) numbered 5.3 million. This is 8 percent below year ago and 13 percent below the 1942-51 average. There were 10 percent fewer breeder turkey hens than a year ago and 5 percent fewer toms and market birds. Farmers have expressed an intention of raising 8 percent fewer turkeys this year than last.

Fewer Chickens

Chickens (excluding commercial broilers) totaled about 431.4 million Jan. 1, about 4 percent fewer than a year earlier. The number year earlier was 449.9 million; 10-year average, 488.8 million. The largest decreases from year earlier were in Oklahoma, Nevada, and Kansas while the largest increases were in New Jersey and Florida.

Percentage Changes By Groups

Livestock numbers increased 2 percent. Poultry declined 5 percent. Meat animals (all cattle, hogs, and sheep) increased 2 percent. Milk stock (milk cows, heifers, and calves) showed an increase of 3 percent. And the overall work stock decline was 10 percent.

Values Per Head With Comparisons

Cattle per head, farm value Jan. 1, was \$128, value year ago \$179; 10-year average \$96.90. Milk cows, 2 years and over, \$202 per head; year ago, \$251; 10-year average, \$139. Hogs, \$25.90; year ago, \$30.00; 10-year average, \$27.80. Stock sheep, \$15.80 per head; year ago, \$28.00; 10-year average, \$13.40. Horses are valued at \$47.20; year ago \$45.80; 10-year average, \$60.20. Mules, \$65.30; year ago, \$72.40; 10-year average, \$121. Turkeys per head, \$6.16; year ago, \$6.99; 10-year average \$5.96. Chickens per head, \$1.41; year ago \$1.53; average \$1.29.

Total Value Livestock Averages Lower

Even with a slightly larger aggregate number, the total farm value of livestock and poultry January 1, at \$14.9 billion, is 24 percent below the record high of \$19.6 billion a year ago. Tops the 10-year average, however, by 29 percent. Total values of all species, Jan. 1, are lower than a year ago. Declining prices for livestock and poultry were reflected in the inventory value. Most marked of all were the declines of 44 percent from a year earlier in the average value per head for stock sheep and 28 percent for cattle and calves.

Business Generally Active

The economy of the Nation is operating at the highest rate in history, with full employment and rising wage rates. Consumer incomes during the last quarter were up from a year earlier by nearly 5 percent and retail spending for food has continued to rise about the same as incomes.

Seasonal Upturn in Farm Employment

A total of 6.7 million people were at work on farms in late January, a seasonal increase from the all-time low of 6.5 million in December. The 1948-52 average for January is 7.3 million. Of the 6.7 million at work in January, 5.8 million were farm family workers. Less than a million were hired workers.

Civilian Employment, 60.5 Million

A total of 60.5 million civilians were at work in January, down seasonally from the 61.5 million in December but up from the 59.7 million at work in January, 1952. Unemployed totaled 1.9 million in January, up seasonally from the 1.4 million in December although well below the 2.1 million without jobs in January a year ago.

CURRENT INDEXES FOR AGRICULTURE

INDEX NUMBERS	BASE PERIOD	Jan. 1953
Prices received by farmers	1910-14=100	267
Prices paid by farmers, interest, taxes and wage rates	1910-14=100	282
Parity ratio	1910-14=100	95
Wholesale prices of food	1910-14=100	N.A.
Retail prices of food	1910-14=100	N.A.
Farm wage rates	1910-14=100	514
Weekly factory earnings	1910-14=100	1/ 631
PRODUCTION COMPARISONS	Jan.-Dec. 1951	Jan.-Dec. 1952
Milk, (bil. lb.)	115.6	114.8
Eggs, (bil.)	59.4	61.5
Beef, (dr. wt., mil. lb.)	2 / 6,431	2 / 7,157
Lamb & Mutton (dr.wt., mil. lb.)	2 / 465	2 / 581
Pork & lard (mil. lb.)	2 / 11,448	2 / 11,462
All meats (dr.wt., mil.lb.)	2 / 18,928	2 / 19,852

1 / December figure.

2 / January - December under Federal inspection.

N.A. = Not Available.